

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 04772 282127Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6948
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION USUN NY
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 4772

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, BH, GT, UK
SUBJ: UK/GUATEMALA JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON ROWLANDS VISIT

1. SUMMARY. ROWLANDS VISIT PRODUCED, TO NO ONE'S SURPRISE, NO MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS. COMMUNIQUE RECORDS MUTUAL INTENTION TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS VIA "CONSULTATIONS AND MEETINGS;" DESIRE FOR A QUICK, JUST, HONORABLE AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION; COMMITMENT TO ENSURE AGAINST BORDER INCIDENTS; AND RECOGNITION OF BELIZEAN AS WELL AS GUATEMALAN INTERESTS IN SOLUTION. UK DID NOT COMMIT ITSELF TO WITHDRAWAL OF BELIZE REINFORCEMENTS, BUT ROWLANDS IMPLIED SEPARATELY THAT THIS WOULD COME WITH PROGRESS IN THE ONGOING TALKS. END SUMMARY

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THERE FOLLOWS THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE RELEASED ON CONCLUSION OF JULY 26-28
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GUATEM 04772 282127Z

VISIT OF BRITISH NEGOTIATOR ROWLANDS.

BEGIN QTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN WASHINGTON DC BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF GUATEMALA AND GREAT BRITAIN ON 6 AND 7 JULY DURING A THIRD ROUND OF MINISTERIAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF BELIZE, MR TED ROWLANDS MP, MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMON-

WEALTH OFFICE VISITED GUATEMALA BETWEEN 26 AND 28 JULY. AS AGREED IN WASHINGTON, THE PURPOSE OF MR ROWLANDS' VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS THE MEANS OF REDUCING TENSION AS WELL AS THE NEXT STEPS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

DURING HIS VISIT, MR ROWLANDS HAD MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, GENERAL KJELL EUGENIO LAUGERUD, AND WITH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES. DURING THESE MEETINGS WHICH WERE HELD IN A CORDIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, THE PRESENT STATE OF THE CONTROVERSY OVER BELIZE BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS DISCUSSED. THE FOLLOWING WAS AGREED:

1) THE PARTIES RENEWED THEIR FIRM INTENTION OF CONTINUING THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW TO FINDING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERNS OF THE PARTIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PEACEFUL MEANS RECOGNISED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THEY WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CREATE A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO THE PROGRESS OF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS.

2) SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE PURSUED ACTIVELY THROUGH FURTHER DETAILED CONSULTATIONS AND MEETINGS BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

3) BOTH PARTIES RECOGNISED THE NEED TO FIND A QUICK, JUST AND HONORABLE SOLUTION TO THE CONTROVERSY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GUATEM 04772 282127Z

4) BOTH PARTIES NOTED WITH CONCERN THE INCREASED TENSION WHICH HAD DEVELOPED OVER RECENT MONTHS IN RELATION TO BELIZE AND DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS TO THE QUESTION OF THE MEANS OF REDUCING THIS TENSION. PARTICULAR AND SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS PAID TO THE BORDER AREA WHERE IT COULD BE FEARED THAT INCIDENTS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS COULD LEAD TO GREATER TENSION AND MIGHT ENDANGER THE SITUATION. IN THIS REGARD BOTH SIDES AGREED TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT SUCH INCIDENTS SHOULD NOT OCCUR.

5) BOTH PARTIES AGREED THAT IT WAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO PRESERVE THE SECURITY AND PEACE OF THE AREA.

6) STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO DEVELOP MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

7) MR ROWLANDS REITERATED THE BRITISH WILLINGNESS TO TAKE INTO FULL ACCOUNT THE VITAL INTERESTS OF GUATEMALA IN THE SOLUTION OF THE CONTROVERSY. DR MOLINA, FOR HIS PART, EXPRESSED THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA TO TAKE INTO FULL

ACCOUNT THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE.
END QTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: DURING AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEPARTURE, ROWLANDS OFFERED LITTLE TO FLESH OUT COMMUNIQUE'S CAREFUL GENERALITIES. ON THE LOCALLY SENSITIVE QUESTION OF UK TROOP WITHDRAWALS, A TOPIC AVOIDED IN THE COMMUNIQUE, ROWLANDS ADDED THAT "MILITARY DISPOSITIONS (IN BELIZE) WILL REFLECT THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS." WHEN ASKED WHY NO DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS, ROWLANDS REPLIED, "FORMAL MEETINGS AROUSE EXPECTATIONS." UK AND GUATEMALA CONTEMPLATED, FOR TIME BEING, "A SERIES OF DETAILED CONSULTATIONS AND MEETINGS USING NORMAL CHANNELS."

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PAGE 04 GUATEM 04772 282127Z

4. COMMUNIQUE IS NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS RECOGNITION OF THE "VITAL INTERESTS" OF GUATEMALA AND THE "PEOPLE OF BELIZE" IN THE SOLUTION OF THE CONTROVERSY. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE CAN RECALL THE GOG ACKNOWLEDGING BELIZEAN INTERESTS. INTERESTINGLY, WE NOTE THAT THE SPANISH TEXT DISTRIBUTED BY GOG IS LESS SYMETRICAL IN THAT RESPECT THAN THE ENGLISH QUOTED ABOVE, IN THAT IT OMITTS THE ADJECTIVE "VITAL" IN CHARACTERIZING BELIZEAN INTERESTS. BRITISH CONSULATE ASSURES US THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED IN DRAFTING SESSION TO VERSION REPRESENTED BY ENGLISH TEXT.

5. ALTHOUGH BRITISH CONSULATE RECEIVED BOMB THREAT JULY 28, AND SOME ANTI-UK SLOGANS WERE NOTED AT AIRPORT AND ACROSS FROM PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, VISIT ITSELF WENT FORWARD WITHOUT INCIDENT. GOG TOOK HEAVY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.
BOSTER

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